

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A device for removing lice and nits from the affected hair  
2 and scalp of an individual, comprising:

3 first and second blade members, each having longitudinal opposed edge  
4 portions, ~~in combination, configured to form a plurality of diametrically variable~~  
5 ~~apertures along the length thereof~~ each edge having successive uniformly shaped  
6 teeth; and

7 means for movably retaining said first and second blade members to move their  
8 respective teeth parallel and adjacent to one another with their respective opposed  
9 edge portions in offset parallel planes along their respective longitudinal axes, and with  
10 opposed side faces in close proximity, whereby the teeth of said first and second blade  
11 members are selectively moved in parallel toward one another, with portions of the  
12 affected hairs therebetween, to form ~~said~~ apertures ~~with hairs captively and~~  
13 ~~circumferentially~~ of a shape to completely surround entrapped hairs held therebetween,  
14 the size of said apertures being controlled by the extent of closure between said first  
15 and second blade members, said plurality of apertures further being configured to  
16 thereafter provide via combing movement of said first and second blades a scraping

17 action by edges of said teeth against ~~the~~ individual entrapped hairs for removing lice  
18 and nits therefrom.

1 Claim 2 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the apertures are each diamond-  
2 shaped.

1 Claim 3 (original): The device of Claim 1, wherein the movably retaining means further  
2 comprises:

3 a first elongate element extending away from the first blade member;  
4 a second elongate element extending away from the second blade member; and  
5 a pivot connecting an intermediate portion of the first elongate member to an  
6 intermediate portion of the second elongate member to provide scissor vise-like  
7 movement.

1 Claim 4 (canceled).

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The device of Claim 4, ~~wherein the plurality of first~~  
2 ~~protrusions overlaps the plurality of the second protrusions~~ 1, whereby their respective  
3 teeth overlap when the first and second blade members are moved toward one ~~another,~~  
4 another for providing a plurality of said ~~plurality of~~ apertures therebetween.

1 Claim 6 (canceled).

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1 Claim 7 (canceled).

1 Claim 8 (canceled).

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The device of Claim 4, 1, wherein the teeth of said first  
2 and second ~~protrusions~~ blade members are saw-tooth shaped.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The device of Claim 5, 6, wherein the teeth of said first  
2 and second ~~protrusions~~ blade members are saw-tooth shaped.

1 Claim 11 (original): The device of Claim 3, wherein the first and second blade members  
2 are oriented at an angle to the first and second elongate elements, respectively.

1 Claim 12 (original): The device of Claim 11, wherein the angle is 90°.

1 Claim 13 (original): The device of Claim 1, wherein said first and second blade  
2 members each consist of a single piece of plastic material.

1 Claim 14 (original): The device of Claim 1, wherein said first and second blade  
2 members each consist of a single piece of material.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A device for removing lice and nits from affected hair  
2 and scalp of an individual, comprising:  
3 first and second movable blade members;  
4 said first blade member including a plurality of first saw teeth;  
5 said second blade member including a plurality of second saw teeth; and  
6 means for movably retaining said first and second blade members parallel and  
7 adjacent to one another with their respective first and second teeth in opposition and  
8 offset parallel planes along their respective longitudinal axes, and with opposed side  
9 faces in close proximity, whereby said blade members can be selectively moved in  
10 parallel toward one another, with hairs therebetween, to cause their teeth to closely  
11 overlap with hairs captively held and completely entrapped in capture regions formed  
12 therebetween, the size of said capture regions being controlled by the extent of closure  
13 between said first and second blade members, said first and second teeth being  
14 configured to thereafter provide via combing action a scraping action by edges of said  
15 teeth against ~~the~~ individual entrapped hairs for removing lice and nits therefrom.

1 Claim 16 (original): The device of Claim 15, wherein the apexes of the first saw teeth  
2 are arranged with opposing apexes of the second saw teeth in offset planes from one  
3 another, whereby said capture regions are diamond shaped.

1 Claim 17 (original): The device of Claim 15, wherein the movably retaining means  
2 further comprises:  
3 a first elongate element extending away from the first blade member;

4           a second elongate element extending away from the second blade member; and  
5           a pivot connecting an intermediate portion of the first elongate member to an  
6 intermediate portion of the second elongate member to provide scissor vise-like  
7 movement.

1   Claim 18 (original): The device of Claim 17, wherein the first and second blade  
2 members are oriented at an angle to the first and second elongate elements,  
3 respectively.

1   Claim 19 (original): The device of Claim 18, wherein the angle is 90°.

1   Claim 20 (original): The device of Claim 15, wherein the capture regions are each  
2 diamond-shaped.